

National Science Foundation

§ 683.40

to information not generally available to the public, you must not use that information for your private benefit or make it available for the private benefit of any other person or institution.

(b) *Consulting, lecturing, etc. about the NSF.* You must not receive anything of monetary value for consulting, lecturing, writing, or public discussion that concerns the responsibilities, the programs, or the operations of the NSF or that draws on official information or ideas not generally available to the public.

(c) *Waivers.* The Director, the Deputy Director, or an assistant director may waive application of these rules and authorize use of non-public information in the public interest. Any such authorization must be in writing. Consult an ethics counselor in the Office of the General Counsel.

(d) *Private use of public property or services.* You must not use Government property or services for your private benefit or for the private benefit of others, except as your normal public duties benefit particular members of the public in intended ways.

§ 683.35 Participation in NSF-supported conferences and workshops.

You may participate in a conference, workshop, or similar event supported by NSF funds, provided you do not receive any compensation, honorarium, or the like for your participation. You may not serve as an organizer or director of such an NSF-supported event, unless its purpose is to plan, assess, or publicize NSF programs. Nor, ordinarily, should you chair a session or give a paper except to describe NSF programs or NSF needs. You may discuss arrangements with the organizers or directors as long as you do not use the influence that derives from your NSF position to pressure them.

§ 683.36 Gifts, favors, loans, prizes, and awards.

(a) *Gifts and favors generally.* You may not directly or indirectly solicit or accept a gift, a favor, or a loan from any person or organization that has or is seeking NSF awards, that has other interests potentially affected by what you do in your NSF job, or that may be trying to affect your official actions.

(You may, however, accept promotional things of trivial value such as pens, pencils, note pads, and calendars.)

(b) *Meals or entertainment.* By extension, you should ordinarily avoid accepting meals or entertainment from such persons or organizations if you can avoid doing so within the reasonable bounds of politeness. You may, however, occasionally accept a modest meal offered as a courtesy or convenience during a site visit or a luncheon or dinner meeting.

(c) *Prizes and awards.* The restrictions in paragraph (a) of this section do not prevent you from accepting a prize or award for scientific or other public achievement given by a university, scientific society, or other organization. However, you may accept anything of value that accompanies the prize or award only if it is not paid for out of funds that come wholly or partly from an NSF award. You will be disqualified for one year from handling proposals and other award-related applications that involve the interests of the person or institution from which you received any such prize or award. See § 681.21 of this chapter.

(d) *From foreign governments.* You may not accept a gift or decoration from a foreign government except one of “minimal value”. Minimal value means retail value in the United States of \$140 or less. If the gift is of more than minimal value you may accept it only if not accepting it would be likely to cause offense or embarrassment. Even then, any gift of more than minimal value becomes the property of the United States. Consult an ethics counselor for help in depositing the gift with the State Department.

Subpart D—Political Activity (Hatch Act)

§ 683.40 Introduction; who's covered.

(a) *Hatch Act.* In order to ensure that day-to-day government actions (such as award of grants) are not affected by political motives and in order to preserve a nonpolitical civil service that is selected on merit, not on political considerations, the law restricts the involvement of Federal civil service employees with partisan politics. These